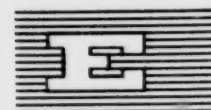


UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC
AND
SOCIAL COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.15/1995/5
21 April 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION
AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Fourth session

Vienna, 30 May-9 June 1995

Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

REVIEW OF PRIORITY THEMES

Activities of United Nations bodies and institutions with regard
to the issue of violence against women and children

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report has been prepared in accordance with Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 3/1 on violence against women and children. It presents the contributions received from the relevant intergovernmental organizations, United Nations specialized agencies and other bodies, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and associated and affiliated institutes. It highlights past, present and envisaged activities in respect of violence against women and children.

*E/CN.15/1995/1.

CONTENTS

	<i>Paragraphs</i>	<i>Page</i>
INTRODUCTION	1-3	3
I. ACTIVITIES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS	4-17	3
A. Commonwealth Secretariat	4-14	3
B. Council of Europe	15-16	5
C. International Criminal Police Organization	17	5
II. ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES	18-70	5
A. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization	18-32	5
B. World Health Organization	33	8
C. International Labour Organization	34-36	9
D. United Nations Children's Fund	37-44	9
E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	45-61	10
F. Centre for Human Rights	62-67	13
G. Division for the Advancement of Women	68-70	14
III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME NETWORK	71-110	15
A. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute	72-74	15
B. Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	75-78	15
C. European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations	79-82	16
D. Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	83-89	17
E. African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders	90-99	17
F. Arab Security Studies and Training Centre	100	19
G. Australian Institute of Criminology	101-107	19
H. International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy	108-110	20
IV. CONCLUSIONS	111-115	21

INTRODUCTION

1. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its third session, adopted its resolution 3/1 on violence against women and children, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fourth session on the activities of United Nations bodies and institutions with regard to the issue of violence against women and children.
2. Further to that mandate, the Secretariat requested all relevant intergovernmental organizations, United Nations bodies and specialized agencies to provide information on their past, present and envisaged activities concerning violence against women and children. The present report reflects, and is based upon, the replies received by the Secretariat from the various bodies concerned.
3. In its resolution 3/1, the Commission also requested the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders to consider violence against women and violence against children as separate questions under topic 4 and in the context of the workshop on the prevention of violent crime and to propose recommendations to the Commission in respect of legislation, procedures, policies, practices, and technical cooperation and assistance.

I. ACTIVITIES OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Commonwealth Secretariat

4. The Commonwealth Secretariat has supported initiatives undertaken by the United Nations to eliminate violence against women. In July 1994, the Commonwealth Secretary-General wrote to the Secretary General of the United Nations to express Ministers' support for the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted by the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/23).
5. One of the key objectives of the programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat on equality for women is to promote an understanding of women's rights as human rights and an integral part of the fundamental values of the Commonwealth. In that context the Commonwealth Secretariat encourages all Commonwealth Governments to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, and to implement the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.
6. Facilitating international collaboration on gender issues is also central to the programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat on equality for women.
7. The initiatives taken by the Commonwealth Secretariat in relation to violence against women are outlined below.

1. Meetings

8. In 1985, the First Meeting of Commonwealth Ministers for Women's Affairs mandated the Women and Development Programme of the Commonwealth Secretariat to hold an Expert Group Meeting on violence against women. Both the ministerial meeting and the Expert Group Meeting set the framework for Commonwealth action in confronting violence.

2. Manuals

9. The Commonwealth Secretariat has thus far published the following *Manuals*:

(a) *Confronting Violence - A Manual for Commonwealth Action* (Second edition, June 1992),* produced from the conclusions of the above-mentioned Expert Group Meeting to guide the action of women's groups, lawyers, health and media professionals, the police and the judiciary;

(b) *Violence against Women - Curriculum Material for Legal Studies* (1989), published as a result of the 1987 Expert Group Meeting mentioned below (see paragraph 10), includes two seminar packages on domestic violence and sexual assault, and is adaptable for teaching about violence against women in law and related subjects in Commonwealth jurisdictions;

(c) *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Reporting Process - A Manual for Commonwealth Jurisdictions* (1988), produced to assist Governments and women's bureaux in implementing, monitoring and reporting on the Convention;

(d) *A Commonwealth Guide to Eliminating Men's Violence against Women* (1995), which describes the historical context for work relating to the elimination of violence against women in Commonwealth countries, gives examples of the violence experienced by women, and identifies some of the methods which can be used for combating such violence;

(e) *Manual on Guidelines for Police Training on Violence against Women and Child Sexual Abuse* (1988), produced from the conclusions of the Workshop for Police Training on Violence against Women mentioned below (see paragraph 11).

3. Training

10. Recognizing personnel training as central to any strategy to confront violence against women, the Commonwealth Secretariat, during 1986, conducted training sessions for police in Malaysia and Singapore. In May 1987, it convened an Expert Group Meeting, in London, to prepare training material for Commonwealth law students.

11. In 1988, a Pan-Commonwealth Workshop for Police Training on Violence against Women was organized by the Women and Development Programme and attended by senior police officers from sixteen member States. They endorsed a variety of measures for responding to victims of violence, including the provision of centres for victims of rape.

12. Violence against women is one of the key themes being considered by senior judges from countries within each of the Commonwealth regions. The first judicial colloquium for the Africa region took place in Zimbabwe in August 1994. It resulted in a series of recommendations relating to the domestic application of international laws on gender issues, including several which specifically relate to preventing, investigating and punishing acts of violence against women. Further judicial colloquiums

*The *Manual* contains four sections on: domestic violence and sexual assault; sexual harassment and sexual abuse of children; violence related to customs and tradition; and the media and violence against women. Each section provides definitions of the various types of violence, examines the legal approaches currently operating in the Commonwealth, and explores positive mechanisms which provide support for victims or which can be used to bring about changes in public attitudes.

are scheduled to take place during 1995-1997 for Commonwealth countries in the Asia, Caribbean and South Pacific regions.

13. The Commonwealth Secretariat organized regional training workshops in Africa and the Caribbean to introduce Ministers responsible for Women's Affairs and senior officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs to the reporting processes for the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

4. Clearing-house activities

14. A database of information will be set up in order to provide information to groups working to prevent violence against women in Commonwealth countries, facilitate the exchange of information between countries and regions, and promote examples of good practice.

B. Council of Europe

15. Violence against women and children has been on the agenda of the European Committee on Crime Problems of the Council of Europe for many years. In respect of criminal law, a number of recommendations have been adopted by the Council so as to provide guidance to criminal justice agencies on matters such as the prevention of violence, the proper treatment of offenders and assistance to victims.

16. Particularly worthy of note are the following recommendations: recommendation R (85) 4 on violence in the family; recommendation R (85) 11 on the position of the victim in the framework of criminal law and procedure; recommendation R (87) 21 on assistance to victims and the prevention of victimization; and recommendation R (91) 11 on sexual exploitation, pornography and prostitution of, and trafficking in, children and young adults.

C. International Criminal Police Organization

17. The seriousness of the problem is fully appreciated by the International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO/Interpol). Its action in combating violence against women and children is carried out mainly through a biannual working group,* the action of which is recognized by various United Nations bodies with which it closely collaborates.** In future, ICPO/Interpol intends to concentrate on training police officers in combating crime against children.

II. ACTIVITIES OF UNITED NATIONS SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND OTHER UNITED NATIONS BODIES

A. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

18. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) is continuing its efforts through its programme activities in cooperation with its partners to eradicate violence against

*Information on the past and present activities of the working group is contained in the minutes of the meetings, and is available upon request.

**Most of the information held in the files of ICPO/Interpol relating to crimes against women and children has been obtained from the United Nations.

women and children and to develop awareness and concern regarding this issue. In this regard the following activities have been undertaken:

1. Violence against women

(a) Assaults on dignity

19. Growing world poverty has meant that problems involving assaults on the dignity of women are becoming ever more acute. UNESCO has broadened the scope of its action during the current biennium (1994-1995) by laying the foundations for an international network to combat violence against women and by making provision for the elaboration of new international standards. UNESCO provided support for an exhibition organized by the city of Lille on prostitution. The fact that many young persons questioned on that occasion no longer regard prostitution as inevitable, and believe that it may well be made to disappear, suggests that normative action may be developed.

20. A working group which met in April 1991 at Penn State University, Pennsylvania, United States of America, undertook the task of analysing the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, approved by General Assembly resolution 317 (IV) of 2 December 1949, and proposing means of strengthening its application and monitoring. Following a study of the causes of prostitution, the experts expressed the view that new international standards should be adopted on this question.* In response to a request made by the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery set up by the Commission on Human Rights, another working group met in order to elaborate new international norms.**

21. On the occasion of International Women's Day in 1993, an International Conference on the Sex Trade and Human Rights was held at Brussels on 6 March 1993. Organized by UNESCO, the *Communauté française de Belgique*, the International Federation of Human Rights and the International Council of Women, it attracted considerable attention. In order to contend with a traffic in persons which has reached unprecedented proportions and is conducted by cruel methods, participants urged that the international legal instruments designed to combat it be strengthened. A campaign to collect signatures was launched in order to support the proposal for a new convention against the exploitation of human beings which might be presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace, to be held at Beijing from 4 to 15 September 1995.

(b) Violence against women in time of armed conflict

22. A working group met at UNESCO headquarters in June 1994 to discuss the use of rape as a tool of war, its causes and consequences, and to elaborate a rehabilitation plan for the afflicted Bosnian women victims. This plan, initially intended for women and children who are victims of violence, will probably be extended or reoriented towards young female victims. UNESCO is cooperating in this respect with the Commission of Experts established pursuant to Security Council resolution 780 (1992) to examine information relating to grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and other instruments of

*A report, entitled "The Penn State Report", published in 1991 by UNESCO and the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, was widely disseminated, and led in particular to an open debate within the Council of Europe.

**The findings of the working group were presented at United Nations Headquarters in a lecture delivered to the women's group concerned with the activities of non-governmental organizations, a group which has shown great interest in UNESCO activities.

international humanitarian law committed in the territory of the former Yugoslavia and in particular in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

23. Within the framework of resolution 11.1 adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-seventh session, a study on normative instruments relating to gender equality was undertaken with a view to analysing means to better promote knowledge and understanding of these instruments by women and women's organizations, and to the elaboration of new norms designed to enhance UNESCO activities relating to violence against women.

(c) Education programmes to prevent violence against women

24. Issues concerning the rights of women, their exposure to violence, the means to prevent violence against women and the resistance to such violence have been incorporated into UNESCO literacy and adult education programmes, as well as its programmes on education for peace, human rights and democracy.

25. Gender stereotyping (sexism) is one of the issues of concern discussed within the framework of the UNESCO Associated Schools Project, which endeavours to teach tolerance, democracy, respect for human rights and international understanding.*

26. In accordance with resolution 5.7 of the UNESCO General Conference at its twenty-seventh session, the forty-fourth session of the International Conference on Education, held at Geneva in October 1994, considered the Draft Integrated Framework of Action on Education for Peace, Human Rights and Democracy, and decided to submit it for approval to the General Conference at its twenty-eighth session in 1995.

27. The Integrated Framework of Action offers a contemporary view of the problems relating to education for peace, human rights and democracy. It sets out objectives for such education, action strategies, policies and lines of action at the level of national and international institutions. It foresees specific action on behalf of vulnerable groups, giving particular attention to children at risk and to females subjected to sexual abuse and other forms of violence. It also foresees the organization of specialized forums and workshops for educators, family members and mass-media professionals.

2. Violence against children

28. UNESCO activities in this area which directly or indirectly contribute to the prevention of violence against children are carried out under the programmes described below.

(a) Convention on the Rights of the Child

29. Within the United Nations system, and in close cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNESCO participates actively in the promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, through the project entitled "The young child and the family environment", initiated in 1989.

30. UNESCO also endeavours to associate its programmes with the Interdepartmental Project on Elimination of Child Labour run by the International Labour Organization (ILO), in which UNESCO

*See the UNESCO publication *Tolerance: The Threshold of Peace* (Paris, 1994), the preliminary version of a more comprehensive guide to be published during the United Nations Year for Tolerance, 1995.

expertise in vocational and technical education could make a difference to many children. ILO also supported the publication of a special issue of the *UNESCO Courier* on the subject of "children in danger", the *Co-ordinators' Notebook*, which frequently publishes material relevant to the Convention, for example, *Protecting Children from the Scourge of War*, and commissions original material on the Convention, especially booklets and cartoon strips prepared for or by young children.

(b) Street and working children

31. In close cooperation with UNICEF and other partners, a number of programme activities and projects are being implemented in favour of street children who are often exposed to various forms of abuse and violence. In order to combat violence often inflicted on street children in many countries, violence which makes them refractory to education, regional seminars with multiplier effect have been or are being organized by UNESCO to train police officers in the human and social sciences (for example, at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1993, and at Bangalore, India, and Harare in 1994/1995). Analyses of the educational situation of street children, with a view to preparing the ground for action by UNESCO to help such children as well as children in a situation of armed conflict, have been planned for the 1994/1995 biennium for several countries and territories.

32. The phenomenon of children being stolen, kidnapped, sold or given away by their natural parents (for example, under pressure of poverty), and then used as forced labour, is spreading in many countries, despite the efforts by the United Nations system to eliminate such practices by means of legal instruments. UNESCO is therefore promoting a new approach to free these children and give them access to education and to the benefits of childhood, in cooperation with concerned institutions and individuals. On this basis, an experimental inter-agency project (involving ILO, UNESCO and UNICEF) has been launched in India, and will be introduced in other countries.*

B. World Health Organization

33. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for the Americas has been actively engaged in projects on the prevention of violence. A programme of action on this subject has been formulated. An Interamerican Conference on Society, Violence and Health was organized by the WHO Regional Office for the Americas at Washington on 16 and 17 November 1994. The objectives of the conference included the following:

- (a) Issuing a declaration calling upon the Heads of the State in the Americas to confront violence and to mobilize human and financial resources for its prevention and control;
- (b) Building a consensus among national and international development institutions on the most effective means to support democratic values in societies without violence;
- (c) Launching a grass-roots regional movement to build non-violent communities;
- (d) Encouraging the Governments of the western hemisphere to commit individually and through international organizations sufficient financial resources to reverse the trend of increasing violence.

*See the UNESCO information leaflet entitled *Street and Working Children, Strategy for 1994-1995* (Paris, 1994).

C. International Labour Organization

34. Since its founding in 1919, ILO has established a series of standards to eliminate child labour, the most recent of which, the Minimum Age Convention (No. 138) and the Minimum Age Recommendation (No. 146) of 1973, deal with this question in depth. All countries that have ratified the Convention pledge to ensure that the minimum age for employment shall not be less than the age of completion of compulsory schooling.

35. To help Governments design and implement policies and programmes to combat child labour and to protect working children, as well as to increase awareness in Member States of the dimensions and consequences of child labour and of national obligations under relevant international labour standards, the International Programme for the Elimination of the Exploitation of Child Labour was launched in 1992. The Programme mobilizes the forces best placed to fight against child labour. Violence resulting from the labour conditions of children is particularly evident in the cases of those in bonded or domestic service or in prostitution. Because of their extreme vulnerability, bonded and female child workers have been distinguished as priority target groups of activities of the Programme, together with children working on hazardous tasks.

36. ILO has also addressed the problems of sexual harassment at work, a form of violence which affects a greater number of women than men. In a comparative study of legal approaches to sexual harassment at work in 23 developed countries, published in the *ILO Conditions of Work Digest*, volume 11, November 1992, ILO reviewed legislation to identify laws prohibiting sexual harassment and to ascertain how existing legal provisions contained in equal opportunity, labour, tort and criminal statutes can be used to help victims. The study includes examples of enterprise policies to prohibit sexual harassment and of practices to investigate complaints and discipline offenders. The ILO also organized a regional seminar on the Prevention of Sexual Harassment at Work, which took place at Manila in 1993. Guidelines for the prevention of sexual harassment are being developed as part of the ILO work programme for the biennium 1994-1995.

D. United Nations Children's Fund

37. UNICEF has repeatedly stressed its concern regarding the effect of violence on women and on children. The brutality and psychological trauma caused by violence and abuse have devastating long-term effects, particularly when violent acts are perpetuated within the family.

38. Priority was accorded to those issues in April 1990, when the Executive Board of UNICEF endorsed the focus given to girls in all programmes and strategies in the 1990s, with a view to eliminating gender disparities. UNICEF work in addressing gender inequities, particularly in the access to health care, education and nutrition, are extremely important in furthering self-awareness of females, as well as the economic, social and political position of women in society.

39. Further, in May 1994, the Executive Board of UNICEF, adopted a resolution in which it endorsed the conclusions of the policy review on gender equality and empowerment of girls and women and outlined a number of strategies to promote gender-sensitive programmes in UNICEF activities. These include the following:

(a) Development of gender-sensitive indicators in each sectoral area of development and setting of gender-specific goals in the national programmes of action;

(b) Strengthening the integration of gender concerns in country programmes by eliminating the disparities which exist at each stage of the life cycle of girls and women;

(c) Promotion of ratification and implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, together with the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(d) Support for specific actions and strategies which promote gender equality within the family, including the sharing of parental responsibilities.

40. The 1992 *State of the World's Children* report also outlined UNICEF's concern for the predicament of girls in many societies. The situation was referred to as "apartheid of gender", discriminatory behaviour against girls, ranging from the denial of education to rape.

41. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, expressly calling for the protection of children from abuse and exploitation, provides a framework for the activities of UNICEF in these areas. UNICEF is attempting to educate members of the community, such as religious leaders, health workers, teachers and women's groups, on their role in protecting children's rights. UNICEF country offices are working closely with non-governmental organizations and Governments to ensure effective implementation of those articles designed to protect children from all forms of abuse.

42. The most recent example of such cooperation was a symposium for non-governmental organizations on creating violence-free families, conducted by UNICEF in collaboration with the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the Bahá'í International Community.

43. Given the evidence which suggests that children growing up in violent families, may themselves become violent, UNICEF has initiated studies in Latin America, Bangladesh and Namibia.

44. As far as incest is concerned, UNICEF, together with relevant partners, is attempting to ensure that emphasis is placed on primary prevention strategies and access to reliable child-care facilities. UNICEF is concerned about the exploitative sexual practices which are now a feature of economic life in several countries. UNICEF, in collaboration with the non-governmental organizations, End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism, and the Swedish Government is organizing the First World Congress on Sexual Exploitation, Trafficking and Pornography of Children, planned for September 1996.

E. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

45. Women and children constitute the majority of the approximately 23 million refugees and other persons of concern to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The mandate of UNHCR is to provide international protection to refugees and to seek durable solutions for them. Within its mandate, UNHCR has taken a particular interest in the plight of women and children who need specific protection. Violence, in its various forms, poses significant problems for the protection of women and children, during flight and in the country of asylum.

46. UNHCR has been and is currently involved in a variety of activities concerning violence against women and children.

47. During the past decade, the Executive Committee of the High Commissioner's Programme has adopted a number of specific conclusions on the protection of refugee women and children. The conclusions note, in particular, the problems refugee women and girls face in the area of physical security and sexual exploitation, and call for preventive measures to enhance their physical security. In 1990,

UNHCR introduced its policy on refugee women, and in July 1991 it issued Guidelines on Protection of Refugee Women. The issue of physical security is examined in paragraphs 30 to 52 of the Guidelines.

48. More recently, and prompted by the distressing situation of women in several regions, UNHCR has placed special emphasis on the problem of sexual violence in the context of refugees. In that connection, UNHCR has taken a large number of initiatives to improve the observance of the human rights of refugees, in particular of refugee women and girls. In May 1993, UNHCR presented to the Executive Committee's Sub-Committee of the Whole on the International Protection of Refugees a note on certain aspects of sexual violence against refugee women (A/AC.96/822). In the Note, the phenomenon of sexual abuse of refugee women and girls is reviewed in the light of UNHCR experience, the implications for preventive and remedial action and for durable solutions are examined, and specific measures which States and UNHCR can adopt to combat this persistent problem are suggested. In response, at its forty-fourth session, the Executive Committee adopted conclusion 72 (XLIV) on personal security of refugees, and conclusion 73 (XLIV) on refugee protection and sexual violence. A paper on the personal security of refugees (EC/1993/SCP/CRP.3) was also presented.

49. UNHCR is also developing field guidelines on the prevention of and response to sexual violence against refugees.

50. In relation to refugee children, UNHCR has taken several steps with a view to preventing their exposure to violence. Notably, in August 1988, UNHCR issued a set of guidelines on refugee children which contain the policies guiding UNHCR actions in these areas and indicate concrete steps that can be taken to ensure that the needs of refugee children are met. These guidelines have been recently revised, including incorporation of the principles expounded in the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a chapter being devoted to personal liberty and security.

51. In 1993, UNHCR introduced its policy on refugee children which highlights the right of the child to personal security. It also outlines the objectives of the work of UNHCR, which include the protection of refugee children at risk from detention, armed conflict, military recruitment, sexual assault or abuse, prostitution, torture, hazardous working conditions or any other form of violence, abuse or neglect.

52. In relation to operational activities, UNHCR deploys Protection Officers to all field locations who, along with other UNHCR personnel, are responsible for the implementation of the policies and guidelines on refugee women and children. UNHCR makes a special effort to ensure the deployment of female Protection Officers in areas where female refugees experience particularly grave protection problems.

53. In relation to resettlement, women victims of violence can be assisted through two kinds of special programmes, those created to assist the disabled or persons medically at risk, and those specifically created for women at risk. Such programmes are offered by Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and more recently special resettlement assistance initiated by the United States is being successfully implemented. European countries have also extensively assisted through resettlement of women victims of violence on both a regular and an emergency basis.*

*In this context, see the special edition, on resettlement, of the UNHCR publication *Refugees Magazine*, which provides further information on resettlement of vulnerable groups.

54. European consultations on the care and rehabilitation of victims of trauma and violence took place at Utrecht, Netherlands, in June 1993, co-funded by UNHCR and the Government of the Netherlands and in close collaboration with WHO and the International Organization for Migration. Professionals with substantial expertise in the treatment of victims of trauma and violence participated in this conference. As a result, recommendations on policy and implementation were made, and draft guidelines on evaluation and care of victims of trauma and violence were produced. They have been translated into six languages, and since December 1993 are being tested on a pilot basis in selected field locations by UNHCR and others. They will be finalized in December 1994 for worldwide implementation.

55. Since 1989, training in people-oriented planning has been introduced in UNHCR. The framework of this training involves analysing the refugee profile and the context giving rise to the displacement. This includes a comparative analysis of the situation regarding the division of labour and the control and availability of resources in the country of asylum and the situation that existed in the country of origin prior to flight. Through the use of case-studies, special attention is focused on the role and needs of women, promoting gender-awareness in the provision of protection and assistance to refugees, and on specific needs in relation to children. Specific emphasis is placed on issues in relation to the physical security of refugee women and children.*

56. UNHCR launched a pilot project entitled "Women victims of violence" in 1993. The project focuses on preventive measures, and enhances the provision of assistance to female refugees who have been subjected to violence. UNHCR intends to undertake a thorough evaluation of the project, and then incorporate its positive aspects into UNHCR operational activities in other countries.

57. UNHCR cooperates closely with the Centre for Human Rights, and recently forwarded information for the preparation of the report by the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on the elimination of violence against women to the fifty-first session of the Commission. UNHCR intends to collaborate closely with the Special Rapporteur in the fulfilment of her mandate. In addition, in October 1994 UNHCR attended the first Inter-Agency Working Group convened at Geneva by the expert appointed to conduct a study on the impact of armed conflict on children, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/157 of 20 December 1993. UNHCR has pledged its full support to assist the expert and to participate in the study.

58. UNHCR also maintains close collaboration with the Committee on the Rights of the Child on matters affecting children under UNHCR protection by contributing views and information to the Committee's working group that conducts a preliminary examination of each report submitted by States. Problems relating to violence faced by refugee children can thus be brought to the attention of the Committee for its discussions with representatives of States parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. UNHCR strongly supports the initiative taken by the Committee on the Rights of the Child for an optional protocol to the Convention on involvement of children in armed conflict. In this regard, in September 1994 UNHCR made comments on the draft protocol, pursuant to paragraph 16 of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/91.

59. In the context of the Fourth World Conference on Women, UNHCR has been taking the necessary steps to ensure that the issue of violence related to the specific situation of refugee and displaced women

*To date over 800 staff from UNHCR and non-governmental organizations, government officials and Executive Committee members have received this training.

is appropriately addressed at all levels, and that recommendations for corresponding remedial action are adopted.

60. UNHCR appointed a Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women in 1989 and a Senior Coordinator for Refugee Children in 1992. A Legal Adviser for Refugee Women and Children was also appointed to the Division of International Protection in 1994.

61. UNHCR is also finalizing a training manual on Human Rights and Refugee Protection to form a basis for protection training activities. Specific chapters are devoted to refugee women and children, including the issue of violence against them.

F. Centre for Human Rights

62. The Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1993/46 of 8 March 1993, on integrating the rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations, condemned all acts of violence and violations of human rights directed specifically against women, including those in situations of armed conflict, and decided to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women at its next session.

63. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (A/CONF.157/23), adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna from 14 to 25 June 1993, contains a section on human rights of women and provisions on violence against women. In part two, paragraph 40, the World Conference also welcomed the decision of the Commission on Human Rights to consider the appointment of a special rapporteur on violence against women at its fiftieth session. At its fiftieth session, the Commission, by its resolution 1994/45 of 4 March 1994, decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Pursuant to this resolution and its endorsement by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1994/254 of 22 July 1994, the Special Rapporteur was appointed.

64. The Special Rapporteur is mandated to research, study and investigate all aspects of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur is broadly defined in Commission resolution 1994/45. In that resolution, the Commission invites the Special Rapporteur to:

(a) Seek and receive information on violence against women, its causes and its consequences from Governments, treaty bodies, specialized agencies, other special rapporteurs responsible for various human rights questions and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including women's organizations, and to respond effectively to such information;

(b) Recommend measures, ways and means, at the national, regional and international levels, to eliminate violence against women and its causes, and to remedy its consequences;

(c) Work closely with other special rapporteurs, special representatives, working groups and independent experts of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and with the treaty bodies, taking into account the Commission's request that they regularly and systematically include in their reports available information on human rights violations affecting women, and cooperate closely with the Commission on the Status of Women in the discharge of its functions.

65. The Special Rapporteur has prepared a preliminary report, submitted to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-first session, focusing on the relevant international legal standards and human rights instruments applicable to violence against women. The second report of the Special Rapporteur, to be submitted in 1996, will focus on the issue of violence in the community and by the State, and the third report, in 1997, will concentrate on issues relating to violence in the family.

66. The Special Rapporteur will present reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, to the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as to the Fourth World Conference on Women, in the context of integrating the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations activities in the field of human rights.

67. The Centre for Human Rights, as a follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights, has established a focal point for human rights of women within the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The Focal Point is engaged in elaborating a programme of action to integrate the human rights of women into the mainstream of United Nations human rights activities, and is also involved in the gathering of information and documentation for the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.

G. Division for the Advancement of Women

68. The Commission on the Status of Women has consistently expressed concern for the need to consider violence against women as a violation of human rights and sanction it according to the gravity of the offence.

69. Various resolutions calling for collaboration in the elimination of violence against women have been adopted. In particular, in article 5 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/104 of 20 December 1993, the organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system are specifically requested, in their respective fields of competence, to contribute to the recognition and realization of the rights set forth in the Declaration.

70. On violence against women, the outputs of the Division for the Advancement of Women include the following:

(a) Documentation for the Fourth World Conference on Women, including information on violence against women, derived from national reports, for the preparation of the report of the Secretary-General on the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000;

(b) Preparation of a platform for action on the themes of equality, development and peace;

(c) A 1991 report prepared for the General Assembly on violence against migrant women workers;

(d) The Expert Group Meeting on Measures to Eradicate Violence against Women in the Family and Society, held at Vienna from 13 to 17 September 1993;

(e) The Expert Group Meeting on Violence in the Family, with Special Emphasis on its Effects on Women, organized and conducted jointly with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of

the former Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, and held at Vienna from 8 to 12 December 1986;

- (f) The United Nations *Manual on Violence against Women in the Family* (1989).¹

III. ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAMME NETWORK

71. The present section contains a summary of relevant activities and initiatives thus far undertaken by the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the following affiliated regional institutes and associated institutes and centres that comprise the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network: Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations; Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; Arab Security Studies and Training Centre; Australian Institute of Criminology; and International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy.

A. United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

72. Two reports have been prepared on the topic. The first one is entitled "Violence in the family: an international bibliography with literature review". The executive summary of this report will be presented in the UNICRI Issues and Reports series, number 4 (in English and French), which also contains a diskette with the bibliography and full version of the report.

73. The second report, entitled "Women victims of crime in the developing world", will appear as number 5 of the Issues and Reports series and will present the results of the International Crime (Victim) Survey conducted in 1992.

74. A comparative study on child abuse in the family is also being prepared. The aim of this project is to illustrate the problem of child abuse in various European countries (Belgium, Denmark, England and Wales, France, Italy and Switzerland) and the official and non-official response to it.

B. Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

75. The Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has not selected the issues of violence against women and children as a theme for its training courses or research projects, but it intends to do so in the near future. It will also initiate the collection of data and other information which reveal the actual situation of violence against women in each country, and give assistance to each country which makes efforts to collect such data.

1. Training

76. In the training courses and research projects on juvenile delinquency, the Institute and participants have usually touched upon both physical and psychological violence against children, seeking the causes and motivation of delinquency and effective countermeasures to prevent delinquency. Recently, along with urbanization, violence against children has become a serious problem in the world, so that the Institute took up this problem in the following course and research project.

77. In the 95th International Training Course (held from 13 September to 3 December 1993), the main theme of which was "Effective countermeasures against crimes related to urbanization and industrialization: urban crime, juvenile delinquency and environmental crime", it was acknowledged that juveniles are most vulnerable to the worsened urban environments, and family and community ties which had played important roles in the sound development of juveniles have been loosening. Special attention was paid to the actual situation of street children and abused children, including children who are bought and sold or prostituted, and to countermeasures in each country.

2. Research

78. Relevant research work on Juvenile Welfare in India is being conducted jointly with the Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice of Japan and the National Institute of Social Defence in India, and is scheduled to last for three years, starting in 1993. Policies to improve the serious situation of street children and child labourers are among the main subjects of this research. The Institute's research on the Japanese social welfare system also is of relevance.

C. European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations

1. Workshops

79. A Central and Eastern European Workshop on Domestic Violence was organized by the Institute and the Ministry of Justice of Hungary at Budapest in April 1994. Representatives from Albania, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine gathered to discuss use of the *Resource Manual on Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence*. The workshop revealed that, as in most countries of the world, the predominant victims of such violence are women, although there is a high representation of child victims of domestic abuse. Alcohol abuse, economic difficulties and overcrowded living conditions appear to be correlated with violence against women in the family. Such violence appears to have been part of traditional gender relations in some countries, and has been exacerbated by the change in family roles in the last twenty years.

80. A number of recommendations for central and eastern Europe on legislation, professional training, the provision of services, research, technical assistance and cooperation and education was formulated during the workshop. Police, prosecutors and judges should be made aware of the dynamics of domestic violence, and the police should be given specific and intensive training in crisis intervention and in the collection of evidence in domestic disputes. Countries should be made aware of the importance of services, including telephone hotlines, crisis centres and refuges for victims of domestic violence. Education in non-violent education, public education campaigns, and all forms of media should raise awareness of the issue of domestic violence and provide information to victims and perpetrators of options available and services.

81. The Institute plans to organize a pilot course for central and eastern European countries to be held in Slovenia in 1995.

2. Sponsorship

82. The Institute financed the English version of the publication *Resource Manual on Strategies for Confronting Domestic Violence*, in cooperation with the Departments of Justice and of Social Welfare and Health of Canada and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. The Institute is further

exploring possibilities, together with authorities of the Russian Federation, for the publication of a Russian version of the *Manual*.

D. Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

83. In 1991, the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders started to implement a training programme on domestic violence, aimed at technical personnel of the correctional, judicial and police systems of Costa Rica, and at key personnel from these institutions in the remaining countries of Central America. The programme has been developed in stages lasting one year each.

1. First stage

84. The first stage (1991) included the development of training activities on the sex-gender theory; violence against women, and children; an analysis of the patriarchal system; and the theoretical framework of the programme.

2. Second stage

85. During the second stage (1992) the training emphasized specific subjects such as physically battered women, rape, incest, the dynamics of physical and sexual offenders, sequels of violence on the victims and non-sexist research methods.

3. Third stage

86. The third stage (1993-1994) focused on subjects such as trauma of the victims of violence and their treatment in the psychosocial dynamics of physical and sexual offenders and in the prevention of domestic violence. An assistanceship programme was additionally developed based on supervised practice, for counsellors of groups for the rehabilitation of physical and sexual offenders.

87. For the past two years a process of multiplication of experience has been evolving under the leadership of trained technical personnel of the Ministry of Justice.

88. As a result of the activities of the programme, more than 800 professionals from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior, and the Supreme Court of Costa Rica, and a small number of key personnel from the same institutions in the remaining countries of Central America were trained to handle domestic violence, the treatment of offenders in their rehabilitation processes, and the treatment of victims in their emotional, legal and support needs. Supporting educational materials to be used in the courses (manuals, monographs etc.) have also been produced.

4. Fourth stage

89. During the fourth stage (1995) the training activities are aimed at technical personnel of the Women and Family Bureau and the Ministry of the Interior of Costa Rica, which is in charge of the homes for battered women.

E. African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders

90. The African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders has expressed its commitment to ensuring that, in all its programme activities, violence against women and children will receive due attention. The Institute has undertaken a number of relevant activities, as follows:

1. Research

91. A 1993 pilot survey of the African Crime, Victimization and Criminal Justice Administration, conducted at Bujumbura and Kampala, revealing the magnitude of victimization of women and children in the region. The analysis of the data of the pilot survey in relation to violence against women, particularly with respect to rape cases, had indicated an increase in incidence. Women victims of rape offences were noted to be gradually coming forward with information about rape occurrences, due in part to the important role played by women activist organizations in sensitizing women about their rights. The Institute continued to establish contacts with these organizations so as to encourage them to continue such valuable work. It considers such an approach to be conducive to crime prevention efforts aimed at reducing female victimization and neutralizing some of the cultural prejudices used to suppress and victimize women.

92. A pilot action-oriented study on the resettlement of street children at Kampala has been undertaken. It addresses crime prevention through the resettlement of street children. The results of this research would provide a basis for studies in other countries with similar problems in the region. The preliminary findings are expected to be published shortly.

2. Training

93. Training activities relating to violent crimes against women and children are mainly intended to raise awareness about the need to take appropriate forms of action in the region. These activities are outlined below.

94. A training seminar on the prevention, control and correction of juvenile delinquency in Africa was held at Kampala in September 1991. It was attended by participants from all African subregions and covered child victimization and exploitation. It was highlighted how juvenile delinquency in many African countries was a reaction and symptom of the harsh, brutalizing environment.

95. A training seminar on victims of crime and prevention of victimization in Africa was held at Kampala in June 1992. It stressed the vulnerability of women and children as victims of crime due to problems caused by social, economic and cultural factors in the African social situation.

96. It was emphasized that, owing to certain persisting cultural practices, including the fear of putting their lives in danger, a large number of women and children victims of crime do not report to the authorities. It was further recommended that gender-based violence and all forms of sexual harassment and child exploitation, including those resulting from cultural prejudices, be eliminated. In addition, it was recommended that effective machinery of reporting such cases be put in place in every African country as a way of preventing and controlling such crime.

97. A training workshop on reform of penal laws and procedures in Africa was held at Kampala in March 1993. It called upon African Governments to adopt and enforce the application of the United Nations international juvenile justice instruments, the Beijing Rules, the Riyadh Guidelines and Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of Their Liberty. The African Institute was called upon to draft a model penal code that will de-emphasize violence and brutality against women, children and the minority groups.

98. A workshop on training needs and future training requirements of African countries for heads of institutions of crime prevention and criminal justice was held at Kampala in July 1993 with the partici-

ation of 16 countries. It was recommended that the African Institute develop a model curriculum for training of law enforcement officials to foster the observance of human rights.

99. A training workshop on law, women and crime was held at Kampala in October 1994 to intensify efforts in the area of training, personnel exchange, policy formulation and evaluation concerning the fair treatment of women by the criminal justice system, in line resolution 6 of the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.² The objectives of the seminar were as follows: to document information on the incidence, nature, patterns and trends of crime by women and victimization of women in the region; to encourage and promote action-oriented research and comparative studies in the field of law, women, law and crime; and to promote a more effective and rational criminal policy pertaining to female offenders and victims of crime.

F. Arab Security Studies and Training Centre

100. The activities of the Arab Security Studies and Training Centre with regard to violence against women and children include a research project on family violence, which started in 1993. The Centre also published the final report of a research project on the impact of wars and disasters on children in the Arab countries.

G. Australian Institute of Criminology

101. The research, clearing-house, and conference initiatives and activities of the Australian Institute of Criminology in the area of violence against women and children are outlined below.

1. Research

102. On violence against women, the work programme of the Institute has included a number of research projects on sexual assault, domestic violence in the overseas-born community, and family violence and abuse. Some of the research studies are based on elaborate surveys of various segments of the Australian population, and others draw from police, court, and other records and literature. The short- to medium-term programme of the Institute places increased emphasis on developing databases, examining access to justice by women and violence prevention programmes.

103. Besides focused research on the topic, violence against women constitutes a major component in the Institute's work on violence in general and violence prevention. In 1990, the report of the National Committee on Violence made a large number of recommendations with regard to prevention of violence in the Australian community. The level of implementation of these recommendations is continuously monitored. As a first step, the Institute has produced a volume incorporating in it all action taken by Commonwealth, State and Territory governments relevant to the recommendations during the period 1991-1993.

2. Clearing-house

104. In January 1993, the National Committee on Violence Against Women initiated the establishment of a National Clearinghouse on Violence Against Women located at the Institute. The clearing-house is a national reference point for information about violence against women. The aim of the clearing-house is to collect and disseminate relevant information about service provision, programmes, projects and research currently being conducted throughout Australia. The clearing-house also provides information and advice to various groups of clients.

105. On violence against children, in 1992, the National Child Protection Council announced the establishment of the National Clearing-house for Information and Research on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (now known as the National Child Protection Clearing-house) at the Institute. The objects of the clearing-house are as follows:

(a) To collect information on the primary and secondary prevention of child abuse and neglect, both from Australia and overseas;

(b) To establish a database encompassing this information;

(c) To provide client groups with appropriate advice on primary and secondary prevention programmes;

(d) To compile and disseminate information on a regular basis and in response to the needs of client groups, as well as initiating networking activities with other relevant organizations.

106. In this work the special needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, those from non-English speaking background and developmentally delayed children receive due attention.

3. Conferences

107. Two conferences were organized in the recent years, one entitled "Without Consent: Confronting Adult Sexual violence", held in 1992, and the Second National Conference on Violence, held in 1993.

H. International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy

108. The International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy reported two main programmes of work on the topic of violence against women and children.

1. Global technical cooperation and advisory service to prevent and address the problem of domestic violence

109. The practical objective of the proposed programme of work is to create a capacity within interested national and local institutions in various regions of the world to train judges, prosecutors, lawyers, police, victims' counsellors, social workers and other professionals on how to prevent and address domestic violence against women. It is intended to help build and strengthen capacity in institutions abroad to apply an extensive range of international, regional and national expertise to counter this phenomenon. This initiative also includes support to those countries requesting assistance in formulating criminal justice options as part of a comprehensive strategy to prevent and address violence against women in the family. Training curricula and supporting materials for policy makers and practitioners are being developed to be used in technical cooperation projects. Pilot courses are being organized and managed based on a "train-the-trainers" approach to develop the capacity of local institutions to continue to offer training in the future.

2. Impact of organized criminal activities on women and children

110. The impact of organized criminal activities against women and children has not been properly studied yet. Activities such as prostitution, forced and exploitative labour practices, ritual abuse, the trade in human organs and alien-smuggling are among the subjects of a literature database currently

being compiled by the Centre. A bibliography will be published and made available electronically through the Internet.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

111. A multiplicity of initiatives to counter violence against women and children have been taken by concerned intergovernmental organizations and United Nations bodies and institutions. In particular, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice have been dealing with these issues within their respective mandates and from their specific perspectives.

112. The crime prevention and criminal justice programme itself has had a long-standing substantive involvement in, and has undertaken considerable work on, violence against both women and children. Various pertinent resolutions have been adopted by the General Assembly, on the recommendations of the United Nations quinquennial congresses, and by the Economic and Social Council, on the recommendation of the former Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

113. Consideration should be given not only to the results of the Ninth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in this area, but also to the possible action to be taken by the forthcoming Fourth World Conference on Women to be held at Beijing in September 1995.

114. Furthermore, the Commission on Human Rights has appointed a Special Rapporteur on the sale of children (E/CN.4/1993/67, E/CN.4/1994/84 and A/49/478) and a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences.* In this context, it should be recalled that the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its third session, in its resolution 3/1, urged the Secretary-General to publicize the work of the special rapporteurs and to disseminate their findings and conclusions widely, including bringing them to the attention of the Commission to assist in its work in the area of violence against women and children.

115. The Commission may thus wish to consider the most effective ways to maximize cooperation among all international bodies dealing with violence against women and children. Specifically, the Commission could propose strategies to improve coordination, with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts.**

Notes

¹*Violence against Women in the Family* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.IV.5).

²See *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), chap. I, sect. E.

*Preliminary report submitted by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/95 (E/CN.4/1995/42).

**For example, see document E/CN.6/1995/9 on activities of the United Nations bodies and institutions concerned with crime prevention, submitted to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-ninth session under item 5 on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985.